

The Joint Declaration on the Complete Prohibition of Chemical and Biological Weapons (The Mendoza Accord)

September 5, 1991

The Government of the Argentine Republic,
The Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil, and
The Government of the Republic of Chile,
Convinced that a complete ban on chemical and biological weapons will contribute to strengthening the security of all States;
Resolved to consolidate the region as an area of peace and cooperation free from the scourge of these weapons of mass destruction;
Confirming the respective unilateral declarations on the non-possession of chemical weapons previously issued by the three countries;
Agreeing on the need to prevent the spread of such weapons through a multilateral convention, currently under negotiation at the Conference on Disarmament, which would comprehensively ban chemical weapons and their production facilities, and urging all States that produce and possess such weapons to become parties to the convention;
Contributing to the confidence-building measures agreed upon by the States parties to the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, whose Third Review Conference will take place at Geneva from 9 to 27 September 1991;

Declare:

1. Their full commitment not to develop, produce, acquire in any way, stockpile or retain, transfer directly or indirectly, or use chemical or biological weapons;
2. Their intention, until such time as the future convention on chemical weapons enters into force, to give prior study to and jointly consider all the mechanisms necessary to ensure the fulfilment of the commitment entered into;
3. Their intention, until the aforesaid convention enters into force and in conformity with international law, to establish in their respective countries the appropriate mechanisms for controlling those substances defined as precursors of chemical warfare agents;
4. Their intention to cooperate closely in order to facilitate the conclusion of a multilateral convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons and to sign that convention simultaneously as original parties;
5. Their right to use all peaceful applications of chemistry and biology for economic and technological development and for the well-being of their peoples;
6. Their conviction that the implementation of the convention should create among the States parties a climate of mutual confidence which would serve

substantially to increase international cooperation in the exchange of, inter alia, chemicals and related equipment and technologies;

7. Their intention to contribute decisively to the success of the Third Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and their readiness to examine modalities for improving their methods of verification;

8. Their hope that other States in the region will sign the present Accord.

Signed at Mendoza, Argentina, on 5 September 1991.

[Note: Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay have since also signed this agreement. Except for Bolivia, all signatories of the Mendoza Accord have ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention as well.]